

LOUND PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 6th March 2023 at 7pm at The Village Hall.

(Subject to amendment until signed by the Chairman at the next meeting)

Present: Miles Thomas, Paul Strowlger, Gayle Welsh, Jenny Ozinel, Paul Ashdown (District Council), Keith Robinson, (County Council), and Jill Brown (clerk).

Welcome & Apologies: Apologies from Judith Hobbs, Connor Moore, and Ed Back. The Chair gave a summary of what has been achieved by the PC over the previous term. Appendix attached.

1. Declaration of Interest – None declared.

2. Minutes of The Last Meetings and Matters Arising – The minutes of the meeting on 9th January were agreed. It was noted that the precept requested was £3984 as requested by Chair and as indicated by checks done by Paul S following the meeting. Proposed by Paul S and seconded by Jenny.

3. Public Forum – There were no members of the public present.

4. Updates –

- **Speed Indicator Report** – the speed indicator is shared with Somerleyton. Miles will make contact to arrange for Lound to have use.
- **Councillor Vacancy** – There have not been any applications to date. If there is not a full PC after the upcoming election, attempts will be made to co-opt.
- **Warm Rooms Project** – This is now up and running as a film afternoon, and the day has been changed from Fridays to Tuesdays to accommodate those who use the rugby bus on Friday's. Numbers have been steadily increasing. 7 sessions have been booked with the VH at a cost of £60 per session. The price has been renegotiated to £30 per session after Easter. The cost will be paid from the £1260 grant. A laptop has been loaned by ESC to support residents to access grants and financial support to help with energy costs etc. Details of help available is on the website at: <http://lound.onesuffolk.net/parish-council/policies/>
Miles expressed thanks to Wendy and Gary who have been helping with this project.
- **Footpath from Blacksmiths Loke to the Church** – A grant of £1485 has been approved with Ed Back, and the approx. cost could be as low as £931.28 due to the change in materials following professional advice. The proposed date for the works is 8th May which is volunteer day.
- **Phone Kiosk on Back Lane** -A grant has been approved by Paul A for this project. An alternative site will be needed for the defib where there is a power supply.
- **Litter Pick** – Proposed date for the Litter Pick is 25th March, meeting at 9.30 at the Village Hall.

Signed Chairman, Clerk, Date.....

5. Reports from District and County Councillors – Paul Ashdown (District Councillor) reported that due to rising costs ESC Council tax will increase by 2.81%. The Community Partnership has been successful and all grant moneys have now been allocated. The Community Partnership have boxes of games to be distributed to Warm Room projects. Keith Robinson said that there will be a 2% increase in the precept to meet Social Care costs. There is a new highways officer, Ray Saunders.

6. Parish Annual Report – It was agreed that there will be a Parish Annual Report again this year.

7. Correspondence – 1. Query regarding placing of memorial bench. The Village Hall committee are considering this. 2. ESC bulb planting scheme – this will be passed to the Village Hall Committee.

8. Internal Control Document – This was presented by Paul S. Advisories as follows: At the next review of Standing Orders, it should be stipulated that all payments over £30 should be authorised in advance at a PC meeting and this should be recorded in the minutes. The Councillor Code of Conduct should be reviewed at the start of each new term of office and halfway through term. Proposed by Jenny, seconded by Gayle.

9. Planning Application DC/23/0641/FUL – The PC had no objections to this application,

10. Pension Regulations – It was noted that the only employee (clerk) agreed not to be included in a pension scheme.

11. Council email addresses – Council email addresses will be set up via the website provider after the new Parish Council has been elected.

12. Review of Asset Register – This was discussed and it was decided that the asset register will be looked at in more detail at the July meeting to bring the amounts more in line with actual values.

13. Appoint Internal Auditor – The PC agreed to use the services of SALC again for the Internal Audit for the year 2022/23. Proposed by Paul S and seconded by Gayle.

14. Accounts

a). Review of income and expenditure and balances to end February 2023.

Income and expenditure to end of February 2023 was reviewed and agreed.

Bank Reconciliations to end of February 2023 were reviewed and agreed.

Comparison of Actual and Forecast figures to end of February 2023 were reviewed.

Adjustment needed for ‘other’ forecasted items of expenditure. Otherwise, all agreed.

b). Payments to be authorised:

Clerk’s salary payments and HMRC to end March, April, and May 2023 were approved.

Necessary payments up to £412.20 were agreed. Proposed by Gayle and seconded by Paul A.

Necessary payments of up to £420 agreed for the warm room project. Proposed by Jenny, seconded by Paul S.

12. Meeting dates for 2023 – 15th May (AGM), 3rd July, 4th Sept, 6th Nov.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed Chairman, Clerk, Date.....